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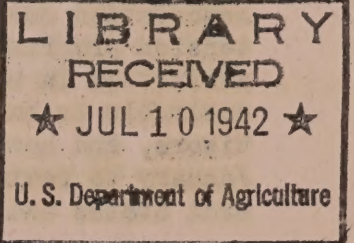
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HIGH LIGHTS OF THE CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCES

PROGRESS IN ADJUSTING THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

TO WARTIME NEEDS

Omaha, Nebraska, January 28-29, 1942
and
Chicago, Illinois, January 30-31, 1942



"I have noticed that when there is an important job to do, the Extension Services in the Middle West have acted promptly and aggressively toward accomplishment of the desired end."

M. L. Wilson

United States Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.

HIGH LIGHTS OF THE CENTRAL STATES EXTENSION CONFERENCES*

Omaha, Nebraska, January 28-49

Chicago, Illinois, January 30-31, 1942

Those attending the conferences included State Directors of Extension, State supervisors of county agents, home demonstration leaders, and 4-H Club leaders. Corresponding representatives from the Federal office also were present.

The conferences were planned on the basis of a resolution adopted by Directors of Extension from the Midwest at the 1941 Land-Grant College Association meeting. The resolution read: "In view of the numerous Extension programs having to do with food for defense and other defense activities in which the extension agents are engaged, it was considered desirable to hold a conference of Extension Directors, county agent supervisors, and home demonstration leaders in Chicago during the last week in January to review and appraise the programs being carried on in the several States and consider plans for the ensuing year."

Discussion at both conferences was organized under five main topics: Food-for-Freedom Programs; Conserving Materials; Nutrition and Health Programs; Other Wartime Activities; and Needed Adjustment in Extension Organization, Methods, and Procedures to reach all Rural People.

The conferences were opened by reading a letter from M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. H. W. Hochbaum, who represented Director Wilson at the conference, complimented extension workers in the Central States on the admirable manner in which they were cooperating with other agencies and assuming their functions in the U.S.D.A. War Boards at State and county levels. He pointed out the importance of rapid adjustments to the war situation, of increasing the number of voluntary local leaders, enrollment in home demonstration clubs, 4-H Clubs, and commodity groups. He commended the able leadership which the extension staff is giving in stimulating effective war production by farm people, and the fine spirit in which extension workers in these States are accepting their responsibility as the authority in subject matter for representatives of all agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture that work with rural people, and for the broad educational program which will keep rural people informed as to the war situation as it affects agriculture and family life.

High lights of the discussion topics of both conferences follow:

*This report is made possible through the effective contributions of the secretaries for each discussion topic.

NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS IN EXTENSION ORGANIZATION
METHODS AND PROCEDURES TO REACH ALL THE PEOPLE

All States reported adjustments to the wartime need of helping all farm families do their part toward achieving victory.

It was recognized that farmers who do not follow recommended practices on their farms offer the greatest field for expansion of production, and for reduction in waste.

In all States there is united planning by members of the Extension Staff as a coordinated service, and the approach is being made to the farm family as a unit. In every State each worker is evaluating what activity should be given priority in his and her time schedule and what can be set aside. Supervisors are aiding county workers to streamline and systematize their work.

Ohio suggested that to make a coordinate approach attention might be focused on four fundamental problems:

1. Producing the food supply.
2. Labor and machinery.
3. Health, including all phases of human resources.
4. Marketing of farm produce, including transportation, storage, and processing.

All States stressed the need of maximum service on a war basis, but recognized the limitation of staff to aid farm people at this crucial time.

There was general concern over tire rationing, which would limit the services of county men and women agents to farm people.

State and county staffs are planning to use public transportation for travel, as far as is practicable.

Because of the tire shortage it was recognized that there would be fewer county-wide meetings and those that were held should be well worth while and of value to many farm families.

Because of the limitations of travel, there will be greater need for printed material. It is recognized that if such material is not to lose its effectiveness it must be simple to meet the needs of a large majority of farm people, and that we should guard against preparing too much literature. Material should be "one idea" leaflets and be capable of arousing interest. They should be easily obtainable by farm people. Michigan exhibited a series of 12 such leaflets.

Since less time can be spent in travel, extension specialists may have more time to prepare concise, simple materials. It was urged that specialists should aid county workers to adapt plans and materials to county situations.

The combination of our need to reach more people and lack of travel facilities has developed plans for far greater use of volunteer local leaders and the development of more community programs and neighborhood meetings. Groups that are already organized will be used to a greater extent, particularly neighborhood and community groups. Membership in these groups will be increased rather than new groups being organized.

Kansas reported "Neighborhood Food Production Representatives." Ohio reported "Walk in" group meetings. Wisconsin reported "Schoolhouse meetings" with all members of the family present. Iowa reported a man and woman "educational cooperator" for each 4-square-mile school district. Several States reported holding community meetings so that all members of the family could travel together to a brief general session, followed by separate meetings of men, women, older youth, and 4-H members.

All States recognize that, if many more leaders are to be located and trained, simple training must be planned and the leaders given such specific and limited responsibility and such simple, plain, and brief materials as will make them feel confidence in themselves.

The majority of States plan for a man and a woman leader trained for each neighborhood with responsibility for from 6 to 15 families. Leaders need training in small groups, to be followed up with timely material at regular intervals. Leaders selected by local people feel more responsible for the success of the work.

"Refresher courses" are being given to those whose training is not recent. Missouri is publishing five bulletins especially for food production leaders with separate instructions for men and women leaders.

Home demonstration club members are being urged to pass on information to nonmembers through kitchen meetings and home visits.

The majority of States reported more extensive use of the radio, including transcriptions, enrolled listening groups and question boxes, more one-idea circulars for wide distribution to every family, and more use of the telephone by county extension workers to save tires. It was recalled that during the previous World War information was relayed over party telephone lines.

Pledge cards, enrollment cards, and certificates of achievement have been effective in stimulating mass participation in campaigns such as Food for Victory and family nutrition.

It was suggested the 4-H Club members might be given recognition for assistance with food supply programs through canning, gardening, etc., even though carrying unrelated club projects.

There was general recognition of the need to enlist the cooperation of commercial distributors such as hatcherymen, farm machinery dealers, seed dealers, and others doing business with farmers.

It was recognized that the Extension Staff must make every effort to have constructive and efficient relations with other agencies. Especial consideration was given to recognizing the part which Extension should take as members on State and county U.S.D.A. War Boards. It was agreed that a division of responsibility in the U.S.D.A. War Boards needs to be agreed upon, and member agencies designated to do specific jobs. South Dakota reported that information is sent by the State U.S.D.A. War Boards once or twice each week to the head of each member organization, together with a sufficient number of copies of each such memorandum so that each head may send such information to their respective county representatives. The minutes of the Iowa State War Board are sent to the chairman of the county War Boards.

CONSERVING MATERIALS

Farm Machinery

In all States, meetings and Extension schools have been held through cooperation of War Boards, Extension Service, Experiment Stations, Vocational Agriculture, machinery dealers, blacksmith and other repair services. Local committees of farmers have made neighborhood surveys and urged every farmer to order repairs now and have repairs made at once.

Means used have included charts, slides and moving pictures, newspaper publicity, exhibits, and machinery dealers' advertisements. Repair schools have been held for repair men, welders, and blacksmiths, as well as for farmers and farm boys. Phases of accident prevention have also been included. In many places implement dealers and the regular repair shops have gladly taken over the follow-up of the campaign as a part of their regular business; and they are best equipped to carry it on.

Some farmers need to be reminded to accept and pay promptly for repairs ordered, in order that small dealers may not have an excessive amount of money tied up in such materials.

Scrap Metal and Paper

In some counties surveys are being made by local leaders calling on all farms. There are indications of favorable results being obtained, and farmers are responding. Instances were reported where more scrap metal is being obtained than can be handled readily which results in large piles of scrap iron which in turn creates a wrong impression as to the needs.

In collecting scrap metal, farmers, blacksmith, and repair men should salvage all usable parts before sending scrap metal to the smelters.

Extension agents may well help plan waste material collection campaigns and should know how and where collections are being made but need not take an active part in such campaigns.

In some States 4-H Clubs are collecting scrap metal. The county War Board arranged with scrap-iron dealers as to daily routing, and 4-H Club members brought scrap metal to the highway at the scheduled time. In some areas scrap metal was being brought by children to schools.

Similar plans were reported in regard to waste paper.

Fats and Oils

It was well recognized that fats and oils are growing scarce, especially for making commercial soaps. Effort is being made by the Extension Service to stress conservation of all fats on the farm. Demonstrations on soap making at home are being scheduled by Home Demonstration Clubs in most States.

Fire Prevention

It was stated that it is just as important to keep food and farm products from burning up as to keep them from being sunk in the Atlantic or the Pacific. In Michigan a safety check list was sent to farm homes through 4-H Club members and rural school children. The blanks contained a list of practical suggestions on fire prevention which could be torn off and kept at home. The rest of the blank listed safety features from the standpoint of prevention of farm building fires which could be checked off. Every organization in the county planned a fire-prevention meeting in February. Fire insurance companies cooperated in furnishing literature - and all farm homes were to be reached in some way. Michigan has a "flow chart" showing the relations of various agencies at State and county levels in carrying out the fire prevention and control program.

Wisconsin is organizing men and machinery to prevent forest fires, and to care for fires in isolated communities.

Nebraska reported instruction in repair work on chimneys, etc.

In several Central States, home demonstration "loan packets" include material on fire prevention in the home and on the farm.

North Dakota reported loan envelopes on accident prevention and on fire prevention.

In Iowa 15 minutes of each Home Demonstration meeting is given to consideration of health matters. One meeting had to do with home accidents and one with fire prevention.

Safety

In some States, project groups had been given information by representatives of insurance companies about the most common causes and

types of farm and farm home accidents.

The protection of young children against accidents in farm homes is a problem to be faced because so many women and older children will be doing more work in the fields. One State had just finished a series of meetings with home demonstration clubs on "safety in the rural home."

Publicity campaigns regarding safety have been sponsored by 4-H Clubs, State Safety Councils, insurance companies, and Civilian Defense Councils.

Home Conservation Activities

It was recognized that home demonstration work is making an important contribution in the war program. Much of the peacetime home demonstration program is of basic value in the present emergency and is being given additional emphasis.

Some activities reported by different States dealing with conservation of resources included:

- Inventory of equipment, clothing, and shelter - listing replacements and repairs needed this year.

- Consumer information - study of scarcities and substitutes.

- Sewing-machine clinics.

- Oil-stove clinics.

- Clothing construction - remodeling - care and repair - wardrobe clinics - dress forms.

- Reconditioning of furniture.

- Kitchen improvement and repairs about the home.

- Care and repair of household equipment.

- Time and energy management.

- Care and repair of electrical equipment.

- Soap making, etc.

There will be need of conservation of clothing and of textiles of all sorts. Clothing repair and complete use will be in order. Bur-lap should be saved and substitutes sought.

Some of the States indicated that the need of proper clothing for women who expect to replace men in operating farm machinery was being emphasized. Information is being made available through women's project clubs, small-town women's clubs, and through circulars, relative to the

changes in materials that will result because of the war; such as shortage of wool, greater use of cotton, remaking of old garments, etc.

In a discussion on the question of substitutes for scarce articles, the question of jar rubbers and tops was considered. It was indicated that some of these shortages will be overcome through plastics, substitutes, and release of enough essential materials to permit farm families to carry on the needed farm home preservation of foodstuffs.

Federal information indicated that O.P.M. has been requested by the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations to allow manufacturers immediately 60 percent of needed gross replacement of glass jars and rubber rings. O. P. M. was also asked to provide 225,000 twenty-one quart liquid capacity pressure cookers. It was believed that O. P. M. would approve such requests.

FOOD FOR FREEDOM

Agriculture has a great responsibility in the production of food, a vital factor in this war. The group recognized that the Department of Agriculture through the State and county U.S.D.A. War Boards is attempting to coordinate the programs of all agencies to help bring about the needed adjustments in production.

Although the AAA surveys indicate that the intentions of farmers generally are to produce in line with the present needs, it was recognized that harvests in the fall may be materially less than the intentions indicated in the spring. For this reason the Extension Services have a strategic part to play. They not only have responsibility as members of the U.S.D.A. War Boards, but have available the subject-matter information on production and management practices that must be used on all farms if the intentions are to become realities. For example, a change of one pig per litter alone would influence pork production approximately 12 to 15 percent.

A clear understanding of the situation by all is necessary to overcome any "business as usual" tendency, to direct all efforts to the production of the most vital commodities, and for postponement of other projects normally of great importance.

Inequitable price relationships exist in milk and eggs in some sections. Marketing specialists are assisting by preparing information to inform U.S.D.A. War Boards and farm families of the true picture. It was urged that marketing specialists promote more efficient methods of marketing, particularly as usual marketing procedures may be disrupted by the rubber and transportation shortage.

Confusion brought about as a result of so many agencies and organizations working on the Food Program was widely reported and the suggestion made that this might be corrected by a duplication of personnel on committees. For example, the labor subcommittee of the agricultural

planning committee, the labor committee of the U.S.D.A. War Board, and the labor committee of the Civilian Defense Council might include about the same people in each case.

Missouri reported that U.S.D.A. agency representatives at the county level planned to hold joint community Food-for-Freedom meetings. The most logical local approach was agreed upon. In many counties the home demonstration clubs were considered the logical ones to arouse local interest after which local leaders were appointed and trained to help in reaching the Food-for-Freedom goals.

State-wide garden conferences following the pattern of the National Defense Garden Conference have already been held, or plans are under way throughout the Central States. It was urged that a 4-H garden for family use or food preservation project be carried by every 4-H Club member in addition to any other project carried by him. Some form of special recognition for such 4-H members might be devised.

The situations regarding specific commodities were indicated as follows:

Soybeans

The need of seed for soybeans was emphasized by States west of the Mississippi river. Illinois and Indiana reported that supplies of soybean seed were ample to meet their respective needs, with some for use by other States and that at present supplies were voluntarily being held from oil processing until the need for planting purposes is determined.

Indiana stressed the need of follow-up testing in May. People who want seeds are bidding the price up to \$2.50 and \$3 per bushel. Increase in soybean acreage in some areas will increase problems of soil erosion.

Dairy

In some States the dairy situation is critical. The requested increase has been made by farmers, but some condenseries are refusing to accept milk since shipping facilities are now inadequate for caring for products already at export centers or ready to deliver.

It was strongly urged that the Federal Government should accept delivery and arrange for storage, thus paying condensery owners more promptly and providing cash for further purchase of fluid milk which farmers have produced at the request of the Federal Government.

It was stressed that unless the product is removed from the producing area the production program will bog down. Ohio reported that R.E.A. is sponsoring the building of 10 cheese factories in Ohio.

The feed situation was recognized as a "bottleneck" in the production program in some areas. Wisconsin reported needing 35,000 cars of feed above that of 1941 to meet requested milk production for that State.

Indiana plans to provide usable information for farmers with herds of four or more cows. They are endeavoring to enroll young boys in dairy work. Intensified dairy programs are being developed at extension schools.

Poultry and Eggs

The anticipated demand for chicks has not materialized. Chicks for broiler trade are moving slowly and at lower prices than would be warranted considering egg prices. Michigan reported that farmers cannot sell eggs because of grading laws. The new law in Ohio made dealers cautious of buying ungraded eggs.

Indiana set up a meeting for hatchery men. Poultry schools were well attended. Members of home demonstration clubs are having poultry instruction.

Hogs

Extension is stressing economical pork production. In Indiana horse and sheep specialists are assisting with the swine production program.

Labor Problems

The farm labor shortage is universal. Farm boys are being drawn from the farms both by the draft and by industry. Draft boards are not deferring farm boys.

The U. S. Employment Service was reported as making special effort to aid in the farm labor situation. They are setting up county employment offices, and States were urged to utilize this service.

It was suggested that labor committees of U. S. War Boards make contact with State Board of Education officials to consider adjusting the school year to meet the labor peak needs of agriculture.

Surveys of labor needs are being made.

Exchange of services among farm people was urged to relieve the labor situation.

Some consideration is being given to having boy scouts and other city boys help with farm work. There was difference of opinion on this subject. Closing of shops by business men at an early hour and giving help to nearby farmers was reported to have been of value in the previous war and was suggested for consideration this summer.

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

All States have activities under way for emphasizing nutrition and health needs and for relating them to the food production program.

In each State effort is being made to help all people to recognize the great importance of health and nutrition as a phase of national defense.

Four major items were discussed: (1) Gardens, (2) conserving food for home use, (3) improving food habits, and (4) needed research in relation to nutrition.

All States are stressing the family food supply with six points of emphasis:

1. Realization of need for strong, adequately nourished farm families.
2. Need to release commercially canned goods to feed an Army and Navy of 6 million and our allies. Also need for releasing tin and transportation facilities for wartime needs.
3. Need to face probability that commercially canned products may not be available for civilian use.
4. Importance of wartime need to produce streamlined, simplified, farm gardens which furnish the year-round supply of essential vegetables that will meet food and health needs and at a minimum of labor.
5. Emphasis on the importance of using varieties suitable for specific localities.
6. The need for food to taste good and be well cooked.

Indiana reported the Hoosier Victory Garden program. A committee was set up at Purdue University including horticulture, entomology, botany, home economics, and information specialists. A suggested program went to all counties. Each county has a committee made up of the executive committee of the county extension committee and the U.S.D.A. War Board. Both men and women are on committees.

The Family Garden Food Supply leaflet has been published, indicating the nutritional needs, how much to grow, store, can, or freeze per individual, and a place for a family column to indicate the individual family needs.

Special press releases, a Victory Garden Hint, illustrated mat in double and single column size, and garden posters.

There are 1,717 home economics extension clubs in Indiana with a membership of 50,000 women. This State organization of rural women has financed a Victory sticker for every farm woman to put in her window when she has met the garden requirements. Each of the 50,000 women will endeavor to get at least four nonmembers to sign a registration card for the garden program.

Missouri reported its Food-for-Home effort: A county committee mapped the communities. A man and a woman for each neighborhood was selected (usually 40 or 50 per county). In 76 counties there were 32,000 neighborhood leaders who obtained pledge cards from 16,000 families. The community leaders were trained at five monthly meetings regarding meats, fruit, vegetables, poultry, and dairy. The leaders trained their neighbors. In the summer there will be tours to farms of enrollees, following which there will be neighborhood achievement meetings. Special leaflets were prepared suggesting special activities for men and for women leaders.

North Dakota is emphasizing good varieties of seed and has a leaflet on seed varieties adapted to North Dakota conditions. Simple implements are stressed.

North Dakota also reported a seed packet for a family of five costing \$1.50. The packet does not cover the all-year needs of the family, but North Dakota believes that if the family will purchase the seeds they will plant and care for the gardens.

South Dakota is emphasizing the proper use of subirrigated gardens which produce earlier. Educational agencies and merchants of Huron, S. Dak., sponsored a Food-for-Victory exposition. A special feature was the use of 150 store windows for agriculture and home economics exhibits which stimulate the Food-for-Victory program.

Wisconsin has planned a series of newspaper articles, one for use by dailies and one for the weekly press. The daily release emphasizes the consumer viewpoint and the weekly the producer viewpoint. These are sent simultaneously to the county home demonstration agent, who localizes the material. Related radio talks are given as a follow-up to the press material. These are scheduled about three times a week and are given by nutrition, meat, and storage specialists. Colored slides on gardens and food preservation are being used.

Wisconsin reported small neighborhood kitchen meetings when women invite in their neighbors for a demonstration in preserving foods for home use.

Wisconsin has published leaflets on Storing Vegetables at Home, Freezing, Preserve the Family Meat Supply, Meat Cutting and Curing, Waxing Rutabagas, Barrel Sauerkraut, Kitchenette Sauerkraut, and Sulphuring Apples.

In Michigan every home demonstration club in the State has a nutrition chairman this year and any specialist who trains local leaders in any field of subject matter, brings to such leaders current information on foods and nutrition to take to their local club leader of nutrition.

Illinois reported a Victory Program Plan with county and township committees responsible for reaching every family.

Two leaflets, protective Foods for Buoyant Health, and Defend Your Winter Food Supply by Proper Storage of Vegetables, have had wide distribution. A series of Farm-Grown Health leaflets, and a Year's Food Supply score card, also material on soybeans and pit storage have been prepared.

Illinois reported a nutrition refresher course for local leaders.

Ohio reported a 4-H Club leaflet, You Can Help To Win the War, which considers food and nutrition, the family garden, poultry, etc., in relation to the war situation and what 4-H Club members can contribute. Consideration of this leaflet and of "health" are included in the training of every 4-H Club member, regardless of the major project in which the girl or boy is engaged.

Nebraska has a Victory Home and Garden program, which includes a family pledge card which all members of a family sign. On the back of the pledge is a place for listing accomplishments. Nebraska has a new vegetable garden leaflet with a wartime appeal to plant, save seed, and eat vegetables throughout the year.

Minnesota has an "all-out" program - Feeding the Family for Victory, Health, and Morale. Any interested group may send two leaders to a training center for each of three meetings.

Minnesota has emphasized the "streamlined garden" that gives adequate nutrition at a minimum of labor. All U.S.D.A. agencies will cooperate in this plan, and the schools will also participate in it.

In training for the garden program, there are four leaders in each community, (1) an experienced and successful gardener, man or woman, (2) a representative of any agency that wishes such training, (3) a home demonstration group member, and (4) a 4-H leader.

Superintendents of schools in Minnesota may be able to pay the expenses of teachers to regular teachers' institutes to receive training in gardening. Extension specialists will set up a series of simple leaflets adapted to the rural schools.

Governor Ratner of Kansas called a State garden conference; enrollment cards were issued. A Food-for-Freedom certificate signed by the Governor will follow. The enrollment card had spaces indicating (1) Food We Need, (2) Food We Can Raise, (3) Food We Must Buy, and (4) Food We Can Sell. Leaders are asked to make contact with 6 to 10 families.

At the meetings people are asked what information is desired regarding food, and circular letters are prepared to meet the need.

Iowa reported featuring the seed packet for a family of five, and putting the garden in the field so it can be cultivated easily by the farm men. Iowa has formed 4-H Victory Garden Clubs.

The importance of improving food habits was discussed. It was stressed that the biggest food waste is that which is carried back to the kitchen. It was urged that farm families not economize on butter, cream, and eggs, but utilize these as essentials of a good diet. Emphasis was given to the need for good teaching in order to stimulate improvement of good food habits. Clear presentation, repetition, personal appeal, and emotional appeal were indicated as good teaching procedures. The need to begin training in childhood to develop good food habits and to understand racial backgrounds of food habits was cited, as was the need to cook food so that it will be palatable.

Other needs expressed were: (1) More experimental work on the effects of storage and drying on food value of foods conserved by these methods, (2) expansion of freezer lockers as a means of storing the food supply, (3) printed bulletins on good practices, simply presented for use by large numbers of families, and (4) more definite integration of youth and adults in the family food supply program.

OTHER WARTIME ACTIVITIES

Each State reported on their relations to the Civilian Defense Council, the War Board, Red Cross, and some other agencies. A condition of confusion, overlapping, and duplication of function exists at the present time, due apparently to the hurry with which many committees have been set up and to a lack of coordination at all levels - national, State, and county - between the various boards and councils, U.S.D.A. War Boards and O.C.D. particularly.

County extension agents, both men and women, are working with practically all defense agencies. In some States, county agricultural and home demonstration agents are members of County Councils of Defense; in others they are advisers to laymen who form the Council. In other States, County Councils of Defense are just in the process of being formed. The agents have been asked to serve on many committees. It was pointed out that county workers have definite educational responsibilities to carry out. While they must endeavor to serve wherever they can be of special value, they must use good judgment in putting the important things first, and supervisors and administrators must consider the situation carefully in order to give agents the best advice.

The greatest need is for some authority to get the groups together and insist that they work out a Federal, State, and county plan to allocate the fields of action and responsibility. There was great diversity in State situations with many agencies endeavoring to serve.

It is realized that the members of each group are patriotic and willing. Each group needs vision, guidance, and help in orienting itself to the already existing agencies, organizations, and programs under way. In adjusting to the war program, all need to keep in mind the great need to capitalize upon the present situation to develop democratic ideals and practice, to arouse community spirit, and to recognize the home as the real background of democracy.

The Governor of Ohio has set a precedent by suggesting a 3-day institute to study defense coordination of agencies in that State.

The Governor of Illinois has asked the Dean of Agriculture to act in an advisory capacity to the State Agricultural Board. The Dean hopes that the Land Use Planning Committee will be utilized instead of appointing new committees.

Since the Extension Service is in a position to aid State and County Civilian Defense Chairmen to understand the extent and scope of agencies and programs already at work in rural United States as related to civilian defense, it should offer to assist the State and County Defense Councils in planning and developing civilian defense programs in rural areas.

State and County Nutrition Committees

State nutrition committees are functioning in all States and many county nutrition committees are already at work.

Home demonstration leaders are chairmen of State nutrition committees in some instances.

In many counties the home demonstration agent is chairman of the County Nutrition Committee. Typical of the situation in many States is the report from Ohio: Miss Minnie Price, State Home Demonstration Leader, is chairman of the State Nutrition Committee. The situation is complicated in Ohio because a nutrition committee was established in November 1940 by legal action of the State and had developed activities before the recent State Defense Councils were established. Consumer effort is being made to coordinate the work of the committees on nutrition and consumer interests. Miss Price is also a member of this State Committee on Consumer interests by virtue of her position as State Home Demonstration Leader. There are more complications on the county level, and it has been suggested by the Director of Civilian Defense that the Chairmen of the County Nutrition Committee offer cooperation to the County Defense Councils. There is also in Ohio an informal State committee on school lunches which has representatives of all interested agencies, such as F.S.A., Extension, W.P.A., P.T.A., S.M.A., and it has been suggested that the school lunch committee become a subcommittee of the State Nutrition Committee. Miss Price pointed out the possible dangers of many committees with nothing to do and of Defense Council volunteers who have no task. Zanesville, Ohio, is only a small city, but it has had 12,000 volunteers for defense work at the request of Civilian Defense but so far nothing constructive has been planned for them to do.

Red Cross

There is a trend in some States to develop rural chapters of the Red Cross. This would tend to set up wholesome standards of what rural women who help in the Food-for-Freedom program for production might consider is a wise use of time, as there was some question as to the practicability of rural women enrolling in Red Cross groups, because of the extended time required.

In those places where there is a tendency to suggest that rural women who do not knit or undertake other Red Cross activities are lacking in patriotism, attention of the public should be directed to the important part rural women must play in the food-production programs.

Some Home Demonstration groups have taken the Red Cross courses in first aid and nutrition. There has been some difficulty in obtaining competent instructors for local units, and county home demonstration agents have been asked to register as instructors. In one county in Wisconsin over 200 rural women have taken the Red Cross nursing course.

Education for Democracy

It was generally agreed that the most potent means of evincing belief in democracy in the war situation is to accept cheerfully those needed sacrifices which face us.

It was agreed that discussion of extension activities in wartime should be presented in terms of what we are fighting for.

Michigan reported that they had prepared special outlines on democracy and citizenship for use by the home demonstration agents in their local groups. No requirement was made that they be used, but local groups were encouraged to use them. The topic in 1941 was Citizenship in a Democracy, and for 1942 it will be Democracy at Work.

In 1941 Michigan prepared a booklet, Citizenship Appreciation in 4-H Club Work. This emphasized that what the clubs were doing was good citizenship training. This program was presented to parents, local leaders, and others in every county at county-wide meetings. Each club studied the booklet. The citizenship ceremony was put on at all county achievements, at district camps, and at the State fair.

In Ohio special discussion outlines were prepared on essential principles of democracy. 4-H advisers were urged to spend at least one meeting each month on these discussions. In developing the outlines, the idea was to start where the member is, with what he is doing in his club group, and lead him to think in the larger terms of his community, State, and Nation. Similar material is being developed for 1942.

The Citizenship Ceremony was used at the Ohio State Club Congress and in some counties.

Both Indiana and Illinois have prepared material for use in the 4-H Clubs on Citizenship and Democracy.

The Ohio home demonstration groups had no definite outlines, but considerable time was spent in the home council group discussing citizenship, and each group planned its own program.

(Letter of Director Wilson to workers attending the conferences)

January 26, 1942

TO EXTENSION WORKERS ATTENDING THE 1942 MIDWEST EXTENSION CONFERENCES:

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers:

I regret that I shall be unable to meet with you at the Midwest Extension Conferences. During the past twelve months I have looked back with a good deal of satisfaction to the Omaha and Chicago meetings of February 1941, and, under ordinary circumstances, would not miss these very helpful and desirable Extension family conferences. However, we are at war, and in the conduct of wartime Extension work we frequently have to cancel or shift our plans at the last moment.

Secretary Wickard has asked me to accompany him to a most important conference of USDA War Boards from Cotton Belt States in Atlanta on January 28 and 29. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the revised 1942 production goals with particular emphasis on production problems in that area. This is similar to the conference for the North Central States to be held at St. Louis on February 2. At that time I hope to be able to meet all the Directors.

Although I regret not being with you in person, those who will represent the Washington office will be in a position to bring you the latest information on the picture as it stands at present with reference to agriculture and the war, the wartime responsibilities and duties of Extension workers everywhere, and the programs and policies now in the making.

There is, however, a personal message I want to convey to all of you. We are now engaged in total war against our enemies, the totalitarian states. Total war means using to the maximum the full resources of the Nation. Agriculture and food are of just as great importance now as they have ever been in war. They are as important as the munitions and other instruments of war, which are necessary to defeat the enemy. The Extension Service has a great responsibility, and everyone has complete confidence that it will discharge this responsibility in the same patriotic and efficient manner as it did in World War No. 1.

Many times within the past six weeks those of us in the Washington office have been asked the question: "Has the Extension Service adjusted itself to the new war situation?"

Our reply has always been that it has; that Extension Directors, State supervisory and specialist staffs, as well as the workers in the counties

either have evaluated, or are in the process of evaluating, the new situation and are setting aside the kind of activities not related directly to the single aim -- victory.

We are in the process of making many changes in our projects, in our methods of work, and in our organizational structure. If I were with you I should want to congratulate you on what you did in the 1941 Agricultural-Defense Program, which started with the Food-for-Defense Program announced by the Secretary on April 3 of last year. All State Extension Services did magnificent work in connection with the 1941 production programs which served as the framework for the much-accelerated production effort in 1942.

The over-all war assignment for agriculture is pretty definitely set. On the one hand we have the 1942 production goals. On the other we have specific programs designed to give health, strength, and stability to the family and to the community. We are faced with some problems of organization, coordination, and relationships. However, understanding and teamwork are developing, and I am sure that we are rapidly arriving at the point where relationships will be better understood and where the leadership of the Extension Service, in both the educational and planning fields, is being better recognized.

There are certain things about which I have much personal concern. Among these are the problems of developing effective community organization and leadership so that through the medium of Extension Work we can reach all farm families when necessary in a short period of time. The Extension Service is proud of its record in developing rural leadership. We need in the months ahead to make maximum use of our experience and knowledge in this field.

It seems to me also that the emphasis in our production program has changed somewhat, and we are now concerned with the necessary things that have to be done on each farm in order to get the maximum production of those specific commodities that can be best produced on that farm. There also will be many handicaps, such as shortages of certain materials and of labor. Some of these handicaps will tax the ingenuity and resourcefulness of all farmers.

The farm home and the economy of the household during wartime are as important as is the economy of the farm. The home food supply and the nutritional status of the family are of very great importance. The 4-H Club work and work with older rural youth are of great importance both in terms of the present and of the future.

We must also hold the gains we have made on the planning front. Planning activities in connection with the 1943 production goals are of great moment, and we must not overlook the lesson learned from the last World War. We must be prepared for the peace when it comes. All the activity carried on with reference to post-defense planning will pay great dividends in the new world to come after the war.

Each day seems to make it more obvious that this war will be a long, hard struggle. What we do in 1942 will have a great deal to do with the outcome. The Extension Service with its large corps of voluntary trained local leaders is performing a vital and unique service of which all Americans can be proud.

We are fortunate in having as our agricultural commander in chief, at this time, a Secretary of Agriculture who for many years was a community local leader for the Extension program. For many years he was a member of the committee that went to the county commissioners in Carroll County, Indiana, to ask them for their continued appropriations for Extension Work. His children were members of the 4-H Club in their school district. He, therefore, appreciates the benefit which Extension Work can bring to farmers and farm families. He is able to judge the value of Extension Work from the vantage points of both the community leader and the Nation's leader in agriculture.

In talking with Secretary Wickard last Friday I told him of this Midwest conference and my regret at not being able to attend because of the Atlanta conference. He asked me personally to send his greetings to you and to express his appreciation of what Extension workers are doing in the Corn Belt.

In closing, let me give a word of appreciation of Mr. Knaus and Miss Frysinger, who have the privilege of working with you. Their tireless energy, sound judgment, and cooperative spirit make them invaluable to us in the Washington office. I shall ask Mr. Hochbaum to represent me personally at the conference, and if any of you have matters which you had planned to take up with me, may I ask you to discuss them with Mr. Hochbaum.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the conference, I am

Very truly yours,

M. L. Wilson

M. L. Wilson
Director of Extension Work

Each day seems to make it more evident that this war will be a long one. The fact that the 1941-42 season is the longest on record in the history of the United States is a fact which is not only a source of concern but also a source of hope. It is a source of hope because it shows that the United States is a country which is capable of enduring a long and difficult war.

We are fortunate in having as our agricultural commander in chief, a man who is not only a farmer but also a statesman. His knowledge of the soil and the weather, his understanding of the needs of the farmer, and his ability to lead the people in a time of crisis, are all qualities which are essential for the success of our country. It is a privilege to serve under such a leader.

In talking with Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson last Friday, I told him of this thought. He said that he was very much interested in the subject and that he would be glad to discuss it further. He also said that he was very much interested in the subject of the war and that he would be glad to discuss it further.

In closing, let me give a word of appreciation to the people of the United States. It is their courage and their sacrifice which have made it possible for us to win this war. It is their love and their loyalty which have made it possible for us to stand together in the face of the most difficult and dangerous of all wars.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the conference, I am, Sir, very truly yours,

W. L. Wilson

W. L. Wilson
President of the United States